

REMARKS

Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13, 15-20 are pending in the present application. Claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12 and 14 are canceled and claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15, 16 and 19 are amended. Claims 2, 4, 7, 11, 13 and 16 are amended to change their dependency to claims 6 and 15, respectively. Claims 6 and 15 contain allowable subject matter and are amended into independent form including the content of canceled claims 1, 3, 5, 10, 12, and 14, respectively. Claim 19 is amended in a similar manner as claims 6 and 15 including the same allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 15. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

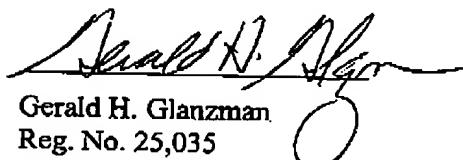
The Office Action states that claims 6 and 15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, claims 6 and 15 have been rewritten to overcome this objection. Claim 19 is amended in a similar manner as claims 6 and 15 including the same allowable subject matter of claims 6 and 15. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 6, 15 and 19 are now in condition for allowance. Dependent claims 2, 4, 7-9, 11, 13, 16-18 and 20 are also in condition for allowance at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims 6, 15 and 19, respectively. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is now in condition for allowance.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over the cited references and is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

DATE: March 24, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



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